



Recommendation for Action

File #: 21-1058, Agenda Item #: 35.

1/27/2021

Posting Language

Approve a resolution authorizing the acceptance of \$148,284 in grant funding from the State of Texas, Office of the Governor, Criminal Justice Division to implement the Austin Police Department project entitled Crime Lab Enhancement Project.

Lead Department

Austin Police Department

Fiscal Note

Funding in the amount of \$148,284 is available from the State of Texas, Office of the Governor, Criminal Justice Division, Coverdell National Forensic Sciences Improvement Act Fund for the project period of January 1 - September 30, 2021. A City funding match is not required.

Prior Council Action:

February 20, 2020 - Resolution No. 20200220-024 was approved on consent on Council Member Alter's motion, Council Member Harper-Madison's second on a 10-0 vote.

For More Information:

Troy Gay, Chief of Staff, Austin Police Department, (512) 974-5030.

Additional Backup Information:

This action will provide the required resolution needed by the Criminal Justice Division to complete the award process related to \$148,284 in grant funding. The project period is January 1 - September 30, 2021. Coverdell funding will provide:

- \$60,284 in overtime for existing civilian analysts to reduce backlogs in the specialty areas of chemistry, toxicology, AFIS and latent print, firearms/tool marks, and crime scene.
- \$45,000 in equipment upgrades and \$31,000 in supplies that will allow analysts to effectively and efficiently conduct non-DNA casework in their respective specialties.
- \$12,000 for 10 crime scene examiners to complete ISO/IEC 17025 Forensic Assessor training.

This is the seventeenth year of this project. APD anticipates that Coverdell funds will allow for the analysis of approximately 3,700 samples of evidence.

The grantor requires a resolution approved by council that addresses items one through four below.

1. Authorization by your governing body for the submission of the application to CJD that clearly identifies the name of the project for which funding is requested;
2. A commitment to provide all applicable matching funds;
3. A designation of the name and/or title of an authorized official who is given the authority to apply for, accept, reject, alter, or terminate a grant (Note: If a name is provided, you must update CJD should the

official change during the grant period.); and

4. A written assurance that, in the event of loss or misuse of grant funds, the governing body will return all funds to CJD.

The services covered by this grant meet the direction of Council Resolution No. 20200611-096, which directs the City Manager to review all grants received by the Austin Police Department to determine if those funds and initiatives align with and advance Council's affirmed vision for department policies and practices.

The General Fund will not be required to contribute additional funds beyond those currently budgeted to this grant. When the grant funds expire, the Department's need for continuing funding will be evaluated and may be denied.

Strategic Outcome(s):

Safety